

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 17, Anacortes, WA

Island Time

Calendar

- Flare Demonstration, 1330 Saturday, 2 May, Skyline beach.
- Flotilla 17 Staff Meeting, 0900 Monday, 4 May, Anacortes Bowling Alley.
- PE/PA Meeting, 0900 Thursday, 7 May, Anacortes Bowling Alley.
- Trawlerfest, Thursday, 7 May–Saturday, 9 May, Cap Sante Boat Haven, Anacortes.
- Waterfront Festival, Saturday, 16 May, Cap Sante Boat Haven, Anacortes. Also, summer safety expo, NAS Whidbey and start of National Safe Boating Week.
- Flotilla 17 Meeting, 1800 Tuesday, 19 May, Farmhouse Restaurant, Route 20 and LaConner-Whitney Rd., Mount Vernon.
- Memorial Day Parade, Saturday, 23 May, Coupeville. FI-17 to participate.

Nationwide Fiscal Woes Catch Up With FI-17 Ops

The nationwide recession, declining revenues and budget cuts are making themselves felt at all levels of government and the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary and Flotilla 17 are not exempted.

Particularly hard hit is the Operations Program. Required personnel protective equipment (PPE), which is issued to Auxiliary flotillas by the District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), has become hard to come by. Flotilla 17 has responded by recalling equipment from members no longer active in Operations and re-issuing it to newly qualified members.

But even more damaging

have been deep cuts in budgets for fuel reimbursements for Auxiliary patrols. The five flotillas (including Flotilla 17) under operational control of Coast Guard Group Port Angeles have been allocated just \$14,000 for fuel reimbursement in the fiscal year ending 30 September. And half of that has already been spent. By comparison, the total actually spent on comparable activities in fy2008 was \$31,136.

One result has been tighten-



Three new members of the Operations Program (l. to r. Sherrie McIntosh, Walt Barnard and Bill McIntosh) complete their dry-suit swim in Lake Campbell.

ing controls over timing and locations of patrols. Another has been a suspension of patrols that began in early March and has continued up

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Safe Boating Week Emphasis on Life Jackets

This year's National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) is scheduled for 16-22 May. The annual event is organized in the U.S. by the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Safe Boating Council and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and in Canada by the Canadian Coast Guard and Canadian Safe Boating Council.

As it has been in recent years, the theme of NSBW activities remains "Wear It!" to emphasize the importance of wearing life jackets while on or around the water. In the U.S. in 2007 there were 476 vessel-related fatalities caused by drowning — 70 percent of the total. Of these, nearly 90 percent of victims were not wearing life jackets!



Six New Members Are Sworn In to Flotilla 17



New members (top, l. to r.) Bill French and Mary and John Coyle are sworn in by Jim Engelson, FC, on 21 April; and (bottom, l. to r.) Gib Moore and Sherri and Bill McIntosh are sworn in by Richard Coons, DCDR Division 1, on 17 March.



Six candidates were sworn-in as new members of Flotilla 17 during Flotilla membership meetings on 17 March and 21 April. Welcome to:

John and Mary Coyle. John and Mary moved to Sedro Woolley about two years ago from Fortuna, a small town in northern California. John works as a geologist for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, while Mary is pursuing a degree as a paralegal. They are enthusiastic boaters and have an FJ 14-foot racing dinghy.

Bill and Sherri McIntosh. Bill and Sherri live in Mount Vernon, where they settled about three years ago after moving from North Carolina. Sherri works for Hartford Insurance and Bill is a self-employed electrical contractor. They are long-time boaters and worked with the Olympia Police Department Harbor Patrol. Bill was a police officer in Greensboro, N.C. Both have joined the Operations program and Sherri has been appointed SO-SR for Division 1.

Bill French. Bill and his wife Arlene moved to Anacortes about four years ago from San Diego, where they had lived for 36 years. Bill owned and operated a company manufacturing space flight hardware and aircraft parts. Primarily interested in Operations, Bill is interested in offering the couple's 28-foot Cape Dory as an operational facility.

Gib Moore. A native of Anacortes, Gib moved away in his 20s but returned in 1995 after a long tenure in Kirkland, where he was a high school science teacher. He is a veteran boater and currently owns a 36-foot Grand Banks trawler that he is considering offering as an operational facility.

District 13 Boosts Dues Payments by \$15 for 2010

The cost of just about everything keeps going up and sooner or later the cost of being a member of the Auxiliary must follow suit.

The executive committee of Auxiliary District 13 (EXCOM) voted recently to increase by \$15 the dues paid to the district by each flotilla for each member, effective in calendar year 2010. That will have a significant impact on the amount of money Flotilla 17 retains in order to operate our programs.

Alive Devault, FSO-FN, explained that currently, out of the \$45 annual

dues paid by each member, Flotilla 17 retains \$20. We pay \$3 to Division 1, \$10 to District 13 and \$12 to National. When the D13 dues increase goes into effect we will be sending the District \$25 for each member, leaving the flotilla with dues income of only \$5 per member.

In a recent article in *Buoy 13*, D13 chief of staff Peter Raiswell pointed out that the district last increased dues five years ago and that since then it has been running a deficit of between \$19,000 and \$27,000 a year, funded out of reserves. The budget goes largely to support essential travel by

elected and staff officers throughout the 400,309-square-mile district.

"The board has economized wherever possible and we are focusing on the use of electronic communications....," Peter said. "However, we have pretty much done all that can be done and still the district is running at a loss."

Flotilla members will eventually have the final say on whether to raise our flotilla dues for next year. For comparison purposes, data provided by Alice show that in Division 1, Flotilla 11 members currently pay \$30 per year, Flotilla 12, \$36, Flotilla 18, \$40 and Flotilla 19, \$40.

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to the time this edition was compiled — but is due to end soon. John Alexander, FSO-OP, said Flotilla 17 has not launched a patrol since 25 February.

“There’s just been no funding at all for the Operations program in our Area of Responsibility (AOR) for over a month,” John said. “No patrol orders have been approved. It’s been very frustrating.”

John pointed out that Flotilla 17 and our neighboring Flotillas 11 (Bellingham) and 19 (Blaine) aren’t alone. For example, he said, the District 13 Auxiliary Aviation program has been allocated three hours operating time among 12 aircraft. Active duty Coast Guard units, including Station Bellingham, have experienced budget cuts as well.

Division 1 operations officer Joe McClain (SO-OP) said that all the flotillas reporting to Group Port Angeles, including those in Division 4 on the Olympic Peninsula, have been under the same patrol moratorium and will be subject to similar restrictions on patrols in the future. He said flotillas that report to Sector Seattle have been similarly impacted.

Joe is also operations officer for all of

Auxiliary District 13 (DSO-OP) and was recently appointed to be head of the District’s Response Department (DDC-Response).

“It’s a tough situation,” Joe said. The Coast Guard in general has been clobbered budget-wise and our budget has been affected. It’s basically the same thing throughout all of District 13 — we’re not being singled-out up here. There will be day-to-day differences in different areas, but the objective is to treat everyone equally.”

Patrols for Flotillas 11, 17 and 19 are expected to resume very shortly. Under procedures laid down by Group Port Angeles, each flotilla will be limited to one patrol per week, on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or holiday, and will be subject to directions from Station Bellingham meant to avoid duplication and make best use of assets.

Also affected by the budget cutbacks has been the “Sea Ark” program. Under this arrangement the Auxiliary crews and operates a Coast Guard-



Photo by John Milczewski

Auxiliary Facility No. 245564, “the Sea Ark.”

owned former river patrol boat (Auxiliary Facility No. 245564 nicknamed the “Sea Ark” after the name of its manufacturer), that is berthed at Coast Guard Station Bellingham. Because money has not been found to pay for required warranty maintenance on the boat’s two outboard engines, it has been in “Charlie” status (out of commission) for nearly two months. It is the only such program in District 13.

“We’re debating that at the District level,” Joe said. “Senior Chief Herzog (Officer In Charge at Station Bellingham) has expressed a desire to keep the program going, but he’s hamstrung also.”

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Keeping Up...Slagboom Honored for 35 Years of Service



John Slagboom (center) receives 35-year service certificate from Jim Engelson, FC (l.) and Don Coleman, VFC.

John Slagboom, FSO-PV/FUN, Flotilla 17's senior member in terms of length of service, was presented with a certificate recognizing 35 years of Auxiliary membership at the April flotilla meeting.

"Actually, it's 37 years," John said. "Adrienne and I joined in September 1972 as members of the San Fernando Valley (Los Angeles) flotilla (110-04-09). We both retired in 2005 but I came back the next year. I missed it — I missed the people. It's like being part of a big family."

John and Adrienne were recruited originally by two Auxiliarists doing vessel inspections at Marina del Rey, where they kept a boat. They later transferred to a flotilla in Ventura, CA and eventually to Flotilla 17 when they moved to Anacortes in 1994. John has held every appointed and elected post in the flotilla and also served as division vice captain (now vice commander) of Division 1. He holds qualifications as coxswain, vessel examiner, navigation systems examiner, public visitor and is just one course short of qualifying as Auxiliary Operations Specialist (AuxOp).

"Adrienne and I have seen lots of changes in the Auxiliary and I think they have all been for the better," John said. "Since the Coast Guard became part of the Department of Homeland Security things have really changed. We have more professionalism and more responsibility."

Also during the March and April flotilla meetings:

Harry Ota, SO-MT, received a five-year membership certificate;

Walt Barnard, FSO-MA and *Greg Devault, FSO-PE*, received their Crew certifications;

Marsh Collins, FSO-PWC and *Barry Daniel* received Instructor certificates and Barry received a Public Affairs course completion certificate;

Dave Martens was sworn in as FSO-PA and received a completion certificate for the Public Affairs course, and

Andy Rothman, FSO-PB, received completion certificates for the Public Affairs and Auxiliary Communications courses.



Harry Ota, (l.) receives five-year service certificate from Jim Engelson, FC.



At left, Jim Engelson presents Instructor certificates to Marsh Collins (center) and Barry Daniel.

At right, QE Tony Ford presents Crew certificates to Greg Devault (center) and Walt Barnard.

